

STIFFENING PHARYNGEAL WALL TREATMENT

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A pharyngeal airway having a pharyngeal wall of a patient at least partially
5 surrounding and defining the airway is treated by selecting an implant dimensioned so
as to be implanted at or beneath a mucosal layer of the pharyngeal wall and extending
transverse to said wall. The implant has mechanical characteristics for the implant, at
least in combination with a fibrotic tissue response induced by the implant, to stiffen
said pharyngeal wall to resist radial collapse. The implant is implanted into the
10 pharyngeal wall transverse to a longitudinal axis of the airway.